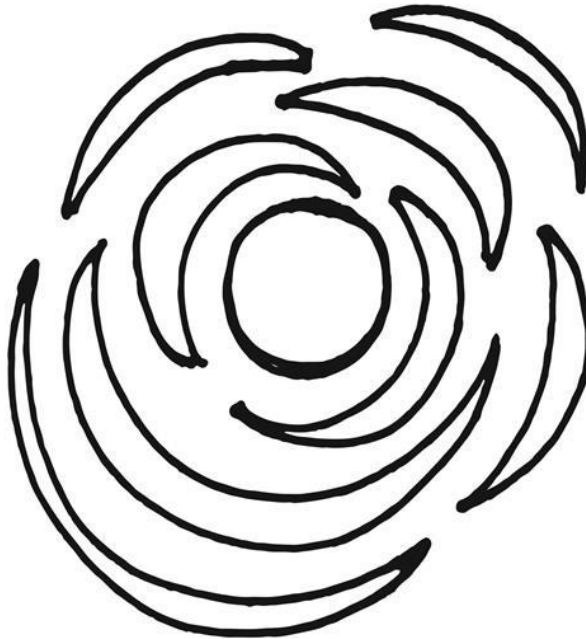


You're Welcome...



Christmas 2: January 4, 2026



THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE HOLY TRINITY E.L.C.A.

167 EAST MAIN STREET EPHRATA PA 17522 PHONE 717.733.4134 Web: www.holytrinityephrata.org

The Liturgy of Holy Communion

9:00 AM

†††

GATHERING

Announcements

Prelude: *What Child Is This?* arr. Mark Hayes

(Please stand and face the baptismal font.)

Confession and Forgiveness

P. In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C. Amen

P. Trusting the goodness and lovingkindness of God our Savior, let us confess our sin.

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

P. Most merciful God,

C. we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

P. In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C. Amen

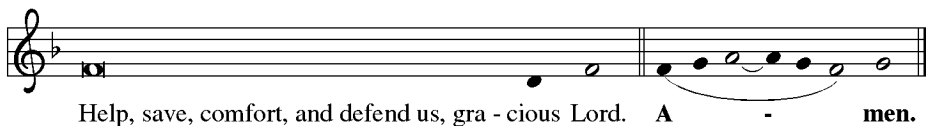
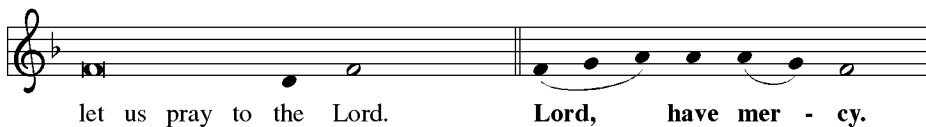
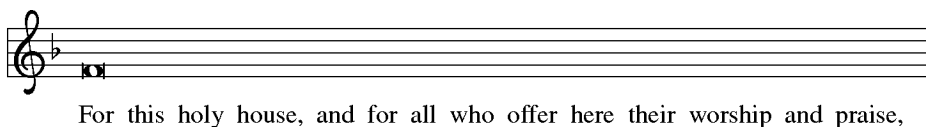
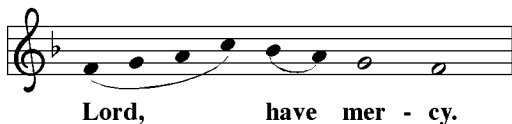
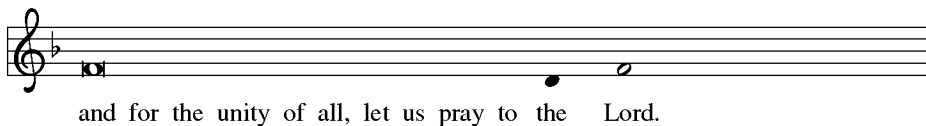
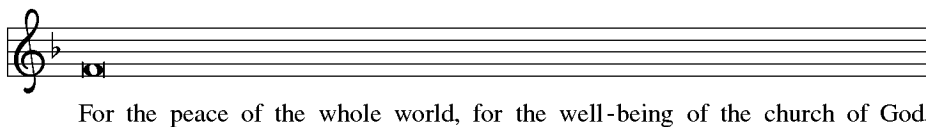
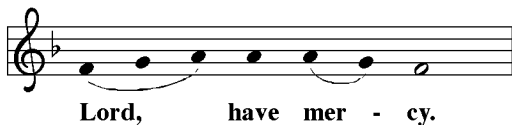
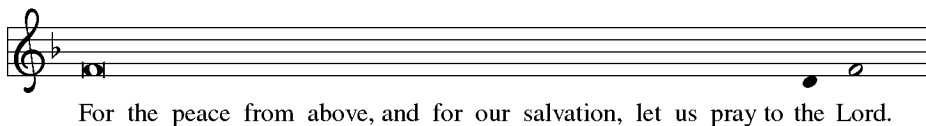
The Processional Hymn: #273 ALL MY HEART AGAIN REJOICES

Apostolic Greeting

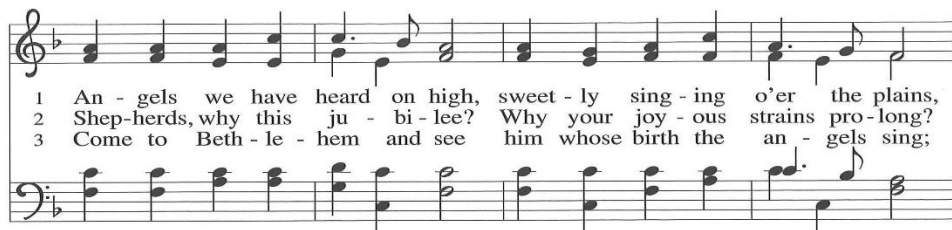
P. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C. And also with you.

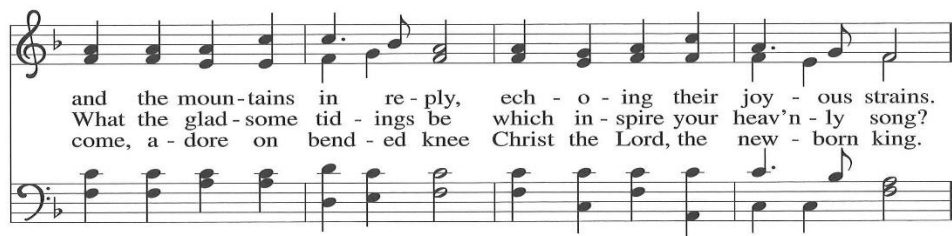
Kyrie



Hymn of Praise: ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH



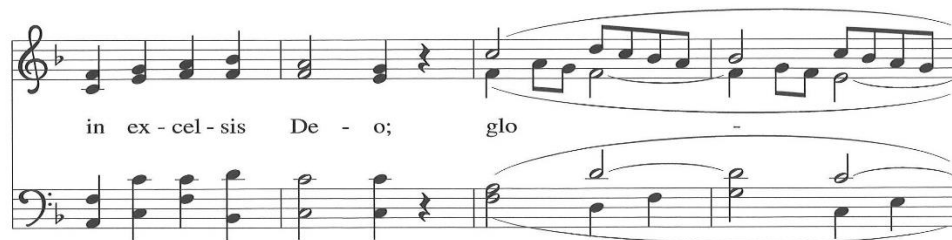
1 An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
 2 Shep-herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
 3 Come to Beth - le - hem and see him whose birth the an - gels sing;



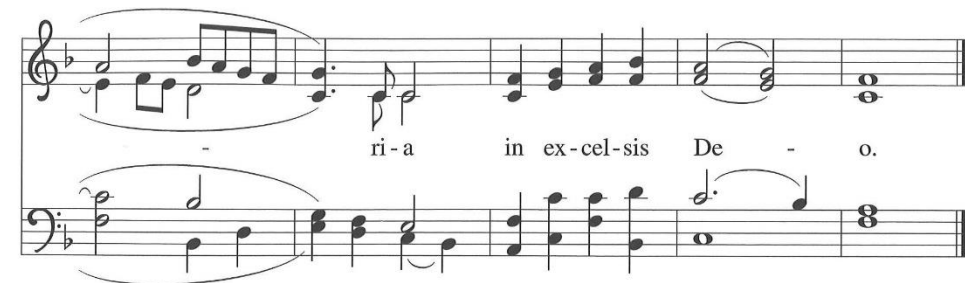
and the moun - tains in re - ply, ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.
 What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav'n - ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ the Lord, the new - born king.



Refrain
 Glo - ri - a



in ex - cel - sis De - o; glo -



ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o.

The Prayer of the Day

P. O God our redeemer,

C. You created light that we might live, and you illumine our world with your beloved Son. By your Spirit comfort us in all darkness, and turn us toward the light of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

(Be Seated)

WORD

The First Lesson Jeremiah 31:7-14

⁷For thus says the LORD: Sing aloud with gladness for Jacob, and raise shouts for the chief of the nations; proclaim, give praise, and say, "Save, O LORD, your people, the remnant of Israel." ⁸See, I am going to bring them from the land of the north, and gather them from the farthest parts of the earth, among them the blind and the lame, those with child and those in labor, together; a great company, they shall return here. ⁹With weeping they shall come, and with consolations I will lead them back, I will let them walk by brooks of water, in a straight path in which they shall not stumble; for I have become a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. ¹⁰Hear the word of the LORD, O nations, and declare it in the coastlands far away; say, "He who scattered Israel will gather him, and will keep him as a shepherd a flock." ¹¹For the LORD has ransomed Jacob, and has redeemed him from hands too strong for him. ¹²They shall come and sing aloud on the height of Zion, and they shall be radiant over the goodness of the LORD, over the grain, the wine, and the oil, and over the young of the flock and the herd; their life shall become like a watered garden, and they shall never languish again. ¹³Then shall the young women rejoice in the dance, and the young men and the old shall be merry. I will turn their mourning into joy, I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow. ¹⁴I will give the priests their fill of fatness, and my people shall be satisfied with my bounty, says the LORD.

L. The Word of the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 147:12-20 (read responsively)

¹²Worship the LORD, | O Jerusalem; praise your | God, O Zion,

¹³**who has strengthened the bars | of your gates
and has blessed your chil- | dren within you.**

¹⁴God has established peace | on your borders; and satisfies you with the | finest wheat.

¹⁵**God sends out a command | to the earth, a word that runs | very swiftly.**

¹⁶God gives | snow like wool, scattering | frost like ashes.

¹⁷**God scatters | hail like bread crumbs. Who can stand a- | gainst God's cold?**

¹⁸The LORD sends forth the | word and melts them; the wind blows, and the | waters flow.

¹⁹**God declares the | word to Jacob, statutes and judg- | ments to Israel.**

²⁰The LORD has not done so to any | other nation;
they do not know God's judgments. | Hallelujah!

The Second Lesson: Ephesians 1:3-14

³Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. ⁵He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace ⁸that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight ⁹he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. ¹¹In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, ¹²so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. ¹³In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; ¹⁴this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

L. The Word of the Lord.

C. Thanks be to God.

(stand)

The Gospel Acclamation



John 1:1-18

P. The Holy Gospel according to John.

C. Glory to you, O Lord, (spoken)

¹In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. ¹⁰He was in the

world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. ¹¹He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. ¹²But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, ¹³who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. ¹⁴And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. ¹⁵(John testified to him and cried out, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me ranks ahead of me because he was before me.'") ¹⁶From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. ¹⁷The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. ¹⁸No one has ever seen God. It is God the only Son, who is close to the Father's heart, who has made him known.

L. The Gospel of the Lord

C. Praise to you, O Christ.

(Be seated)

The Sermon: Rev. Mark Luscombe

[Silence for reflection follows the sermon.]

(stand)

The Hymn of the Day: #295 OF THE FATHER'S LOVE BEGOTTEN

The Nicene Creed

P. Let us affirm our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen

The Prayers

- A. Empowered by the news of Christ's birth, let us pray boldly for the church, creation, and all who are in need.

(please kneel or sit)

(after each petition, please respond)

A. Hear us, O God, **C. Your mercy is great.**

- P. With the joy of Christ's birth in our hearts, we commend our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your boundless mercy and eternal love; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen

P. The Peace of the Lord be with you always!

C. And also with you!

The Offertory: *Sounds of Christmas*, arr. Robert J. Hughes

(stand)

Offertory Carol: # 294 IN THE BLEAK MIDWINTER (stanza 3 only)

The Offertory Prayer

P. God of heaven and earth,

C. from the beginning, you have called forth life, in which you take delight. The trees, the fields, and the seas sing for joy. Bless now these gifts, received from your bounty, that we may join the chorus of creation to tell of your salvation from day to day. Amen

The Preface Dialogue: THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P. The Lord be with you. **C. And also with you.**

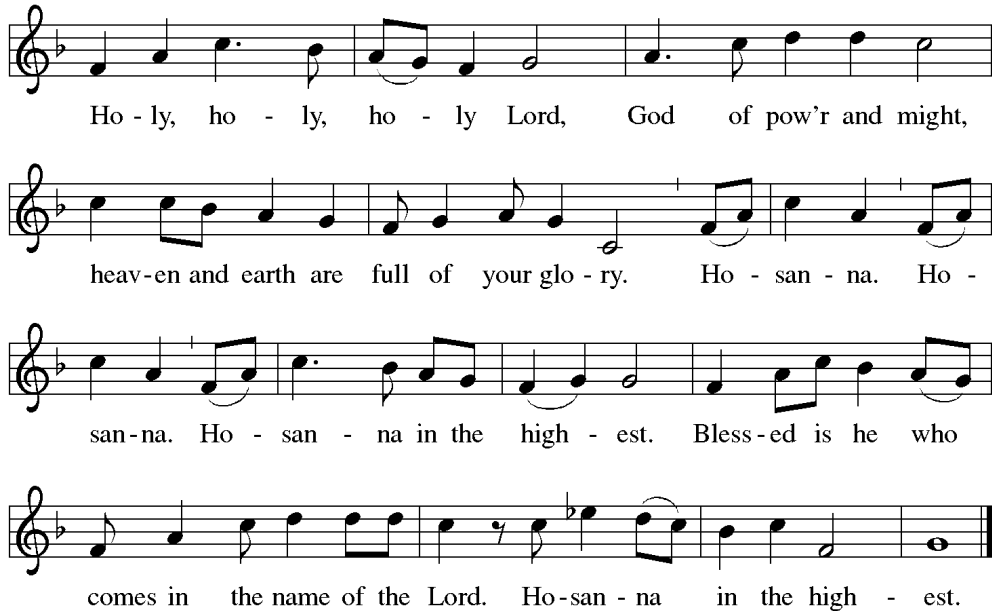
P. Lift up your hearts. **C. We lift them to the Lord.**

P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **C. It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The Preface for Christmas

P. "It is indeed right, our duty and our joy.....join their unending hymn."

The Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

Eucharistic Prayer

P. Holy God, Creator of all and Source of life, at the birth of time your word brought light into the world. In the fullness of time, you sent your Word, born of Mary, to shine in our darkness and to make us your daughters and sons.....Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.
C. Amen

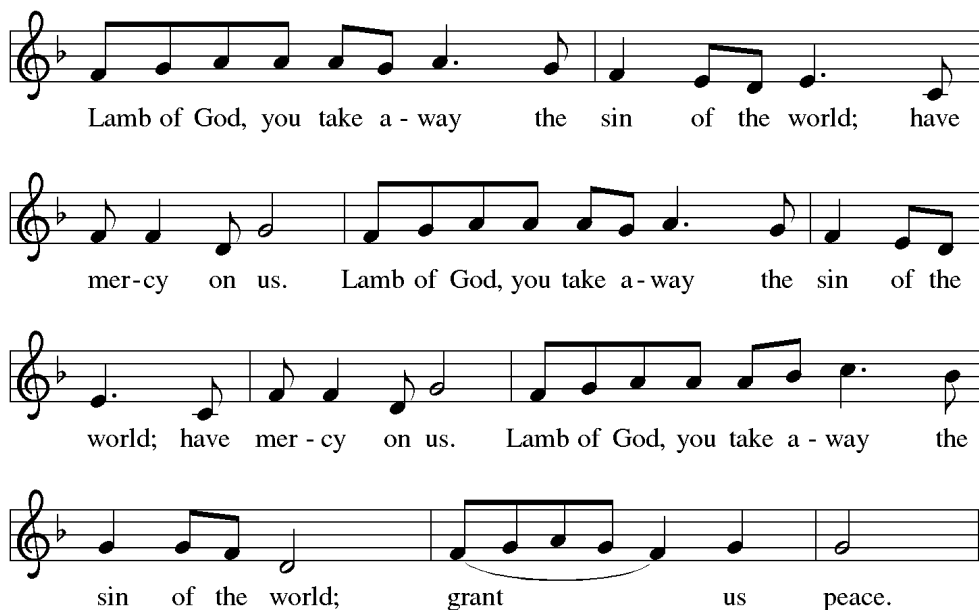
The Lord's Prayer

C. Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

The Fraction

P. A child has been born for us, a Son given to us. Come, receive the gift of Jesus.

Agnes Dei – LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

[Please be seated at the conclusion of this hymn.]

The Distribution

*(All are invited to come to the table, for either the bread, wine and grape juice or a blessing.
If you are visiting, please follow the custom of your home congregation regarding participation
of children at the table. We use a glass to receive the wine. The grape juice is pre-poured in the
trays. Please join in the hymns provided for the communing of the faithful.)*

#291 LET OUR GLADNESS HAVE NO END

#301 BRIGHT AND GLORIOUS IS THE SKY

#302 AS WITH GLADNESS MEN OF OLD

#479 WE COME TO THE HUNGRY FEAST

(stand)

The Blessing of Communicants

P. The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C. Amen

The Post Communion Prayer

P. Merciful God,

**C. we thank you for Jesus, who is our heavenly food. Strengthened by this goodness, send us forth
to announce your peace, comfort the afflicted, and share the good news of great joy. Amen**

The Benediction

P. The God of love, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, lavish you with grace, illumine your path, and increase your joy, today and always.

C. Amen

The Recessional Hymn: #303 BRIGHTEST AND BEST OF THE STARS

The Dismissal

A. Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.

C. Thanks be to God.

The Postlude: *O Come All Ye Faithful*, arr. Lani Smith

OUR WORSHIPPING COMMUNITY

<p>ASSISTING MINISTERS 9:00 John Weiss</p> <p>LECTOR 9:00 Lori Spitzer</p> <p>COUNCIL TEAM 9:00 John Fuehrer</p> <p>ACOLYTES 9:00 Dylan Lynn, Patrice Mull, Judy Williams, Lillian Doughty</p> <p>AV Matt Shirker</p> <p>Launder Linens: Patrice Mull</p> <p>Deliver Flowers: Winnie Gerlach</p>	<p>ALTAR GUILD 9:00 Heather & Scott Zimmerman, Kathy Shaeffer</p> <p>USHERS 9:00 Allen Nace, John Weiss, Adam Doughty, Ed Quirke</p> <hr/> <p>WE GIVE THANKS TO GOD FOR OUR FLOWERS/WORSHIP APPOINTMENTS TODAY:</p> <hr/> <p>☩ To the glory of God.</p>
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Prayers of the People

The family of Joy Althouse

Barry Kreider – 17 Beech Ct. Ephrata, PA 17522

The family of Michael Williams

Kathrin Baltz – 10 Windolph Ct. Lititz, PA 17543

Bob Snader – 154 Wyneberry Drive, Ephrata, PA 17522

Sue Gilbert – Rob Gilbert's mom

Adam D'Andre – friend of Lori Spitzer's parents

Jake Hinkle – 4 No. Line Rd, Stevens, PA 17578

Rick Woerner – 280 Boomerang Dr. Ephrata, PA 17522

All persons affected by war and violence

Victims of natural disasters

Shut-ins of the Parish

President Trump and leaders of this nation, leaders and policy makers of every nation

All outreach ministries serving those in need



If for any reason you enter the hospital, whether outpatient or inpatient, please get in touch with the church office and Pastor Mark. If you wish a name to be included on the prayer list or have a friend or family member needing prayers, please get in touch with the church office.

CONGREGATION REQUEST FOR PRAYER

The office staff does not know the current status of many on the list below. If there is a change in their life circumstances, making it possible to remove their name from this list, please let the church office know.

Alexander Mulvenna

Emmalyn Mulvenna

Janet Brunner

Andrew Campbell

Michael Spenrath

Tony Perella

Mike & Claudia Belden

Henry Perella

Peyton Harter

COL. Eric Bowers

Dan Wierbiki

Jacob Hinkle Jr.

Karen Woerner

Kim Harnish

Rick Gerhard

Wyatt Geisthweit

Les Doremus

Scott Hambleton

Jim Weik

Heidi White

Johnny White

Jacob Connelly

Sue & Denis Rowe

Crystal Perry

Hank & Pat Kajetzke

Terry Gehman

Jill Puleo

Brent Stever

Alan & family

Dori Hoch

Cindy Stahl

Martha Becker

Chris and Karen Payonk

Alysha Fassnacht

Melissa Hughes

John Surdich

Ava Berkosky

Amy Pasili

Theresa Cimino

Eric Mortorell

Duke & Bonnie Leeper

Sheldon Garman

Devin Collins

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Make Your Regular Offering Electronically

On the Holy Trinity website (www.holytrinityephrata.org), a tab on the menu bar called "Online Giving" will take you to a secure web site for you to give. You can also give your Regular Offering, your Special Appeal donation, your building fund, donation by using your Smart Phone and following the QR code.

